Agreement between U.S. and China on Nuclear Programme

*129. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an agreement reached between the U.S. and China regarding U.S. aid to China's nuclear programme;

(b) whether China is helping development of Pakistani nuclear programme;

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to further strengthen country's defence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Government has conveyed to the Chinese authorities its concern over China's assistance to Pakistan's clandestine nuclear weapons programme. India had also underlined to China the importance of paying adequate attention to each other's concerns on vital issues affecting each other's security and territorial integrity.

(d) Government remains fully committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard its security and national interest in accordance with its assessment of developments relating to India's security environment.

Discrimination against direct recruit scientists BARC

*130. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scientists of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre have accused the institute of discriminating against the direct recruits in as much as they are being deprived of special previleges otherwise given to Scientists graduating from the BARC Training School;

(b) if so, whether their accusation is correct; and

(c) if so, the reason for which such a treatment is meted out to the direct recruit scientists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) No, Sir. The service conditions and promotion norms are applicable universally to all scientists and engineers of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre and other Units of the Department of Atomic Energy. The norms regulating their service conditions including promotion and deputation are well established and always under constant review. Merit and performance have been the guiding factor in all these decisions. There could be isolated cases of grievances which are looked into as and when they come to notice.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Report of the High Power Task Force

*131. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the Report of the High Power Task Force appointed to identify additional 10,000 MW capacity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, by when the Report would be finalised;

(d) the number of other power projects pending clearance;

(e) the reasons for their pendency; and

(f) by when they would be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Task Force has categorised projects on the basis of their

likely completion in the Ninth Plan and indentified specific steps required to ensure their speedy execution. Projects of a total of 52310.2 MW have been identified by the Task Force of which 11868.2 MW is in the State Sector, 14069 MW in the Central Sector and 26373 MW in the Private Sector. The summary of important recommendations made by the Task Force on capacity addition during the Ninth Plan are given as under:

(i) Projects will be regularly monitored by Central Electricity Authority (CEA).

(ii) Projects, where intervention at the Government level is required, will be brought to the notice of the Ministry of Power so that immediate corrective measures are taken.

(iii) Department of Atomic Energy (DoEA) will be requested to have an effective monitoring mechanism to ensure completion of projects during the Ninth Plan.

(iv) Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas may be requested to constitute a group with representatives from CEA and Ministry of Power review all ongoing power projects of the refineries as well as wheeling of their surplus power.

(v) Special attention needs to be given for projects in the State Sector which are lying incomplete for want of adequate resources. Consultations may be held with the State Governments to see whether such projects can be completed speedily.

(vi) CPSUs such as NTPC, NHPC, THDC, NJPC and NEEPCO need to have shelves of projects.

(vii) The policy framework for encouraging co-generation needs to be modified to obtain maximum capacity addition from this source.

(d) to (f) As on 31.10.1997, the Detailed Project Reports of 22 power projects with an Installed Capacity of 7471.1 MW, received from different states, are under consideration of the CEA for T.E.C. The techno-economic clearance for these projects will be accorded by the CEA after all the necessary clearances/inputs, fuel linkages and financial package has been tied up by the State/Project authorities to the satisfaction of CEA.

Works Committees under the Industrial Dispute Act, 1947

*132. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the number of works committees actually formed as provided under section 3 of the Indsutrial Dispute Act, 1947;

(b) whether any review has been conducted for the non-compliance of the aforesaid provisions; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) As per section 3 of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, as many as 876 Works Committees have been constituted in the Central sphere upto 30.6.1997.

(b) and (c) The Government reviewed the compliance of provisions of section 3 of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 from time to time by issuing directions/orders to their Field Officers of the Central Industrial Relations Machinery who are looking after the constitution of the Works Committees in the Central sphere. The last such review conducted in February, 1996, and Officers of Central Industrial Relations Machinery have been instructed to strictly comply with the provisions of Section 3 of the Industrial Disputes Act.